

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR JOINT INVENTORS

As the below named coinventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our names. We believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled as follows: **Bi-Directional Cutting Or Trimming Knife And Method For Using Same**, the specification and drawings of which are attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification and drawings, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code Of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56. We further declare that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed by us, our legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States of America except as identified below:

NONE.

Applicants hereby appoint the attorneys of record listed under **Customer No. 22885** at ZARLEY, McKEE, THOMTE, VOORHEES & SEASE, 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721 (telephone number 515-288-3667 and fax number 515-288-1338), as our attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

Please direct all correspondence to the attention of Michael G. Voorhees, Zarley, McKee, Thomte, Voorhees & Sease, 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309-2721 (telephone number 515-288-3667).

We hereby declare that all statements made herein are of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false

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statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**SIGNATURES**

Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 9-15-2000

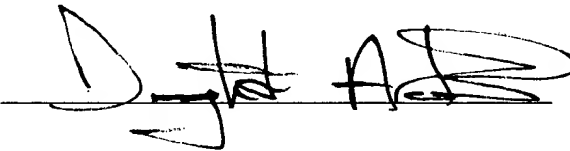
Full name of joint inventor: James A. Creighton

Residence: Des Moines, Iowa

Post Office Address: 4500 Crestmore Drive  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Country of Citizenship: United States Of America

Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 9-19-2000

Full name of joint inventor: Dwight A. Axtell

Residence: Ankeny, Iowa

Post Office Address: 7250 N.W. 21<sup>st</sup>  
Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Country of Citizenship: United States Of America

This declaration ends with this page.

000260-22799960

Applicant or Patentee: James A. Creighton and Dwight A. Axtell

Serial or Patent No: \_\_\_\_\_

Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

For: Bi-Directional Cutting Or Trimming Knife And Method For Using Same

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.97(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled Bi-Directional Cutting Or Trimming Knife And Method For Using Same described in:

☒ [X] the specification filed herewith  
☐ [ ] application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ [ ] Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, grant, conveyed or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

☐ [ ] no such person, concern or organization  
☒ [X] persons, concerns or organization listed below\*

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

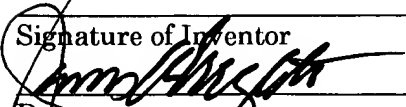
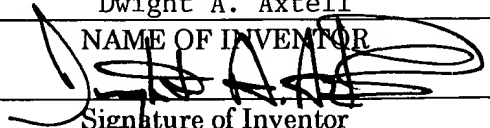
FULL NAME Amatco USA, Inc.  
ADDRESS 5475 N.W. Beaver Avenue, Johnston, Iowa 50131  
☐ [ ] INDIVIDUAL ☒ [X] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ [ ] INDIVIDUAL ☐ [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ [ ] INDIVIDUAL ☐ [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of payment, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

<u>James A. Creighton</u> NAME OF INVENTOR	<u>Dwight A. Axtell</u> NAME OF INVENTOR	NAME OF INVENTOR
 Signature of Inventor	 Signature of Inventor	Signature of Inventor
Date <u>5-15-2000</u>	Date <u>9-19-2000</u>	Date

Applicant or Patentee: James A. Creighton and Dwight A. Axtell  
Serial No. or Patent No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed or Issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
For: Bi-Directional Cutting Or Trimming Knife And Method For Using Same

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY  
STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Amatco USA, Inc.  
ADDRESS OF CONCERN 5475 N.W. Beaver Avenue, Johnston, Iowa 50131

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled Bi-Directional Trimming Knife and Method For Using Same by inventor(s) Creighton and Axtell, described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.  
☐ application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Patent No. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

*\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).*

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of payment, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING James A. Creighton, President  
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 5475 N.W. Beaver Avenue, Johnston, Iowa 50131

SIGNATURE James A. Creighton DATE 9-19-2000